

Florida Army National Guard **LEADER UPDATE**



Volume 11, April 2006

The Leader Update is published to provide pertinent information on important issues affecting the Florida National Guard. This is part of our ongoing commitment to ensure our leaders remain current on their profession. We have many challenges in meeting our federal, state and community missions but with superior Soldiers and Airmen; dedicated leadership; and the support of our elected leaders, the Florida National Guard continues to faithfully serve our nation and state.

Brigadier General Michael P. Fleming
Assistant Adjutant General

Command Sergeant Major Robert M. Hosford
State Command Sergeant Major

The topics of this FLARNG Leader Update are:

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FLARNG End Strength

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The 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR)

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2005 National Guard Highlights

Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP)

They've taken their sovereignty. They've brought in an interim government, elected a transitional government, peacefully passed power, written a constitution, approved the constitution, built an army of and police force of over 200,000, got them into the fight, and yesterday they elected an assembly that will form a government to lead them for the next four years -- all of this against a ruthless and resilient insurgency. So a remarkable effort here in less than three years, and every man and woman who has served here or fought here owns a piece of this success, and particularly the loved ones of our fallen comrades.

*General George W. Casey
Commanding General, Multi-National Force - Iraq
Iraq Update*

FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD

Florida National Guard Inspections. The Florida National Guard recently completed four inspections. In each of these inspections, our units, Soldiers and Airmen were outstanding, as outlined below:

Command Logistics Review Team (CLRT) Inspection (FLARNG). The CLRT, conducted by National Guard Bureau, evaluates Army logistical readiness. During the last CLRT inspection in 2001, we received a “Satisfactory” in three areas, a “Requires Improvement” in nine, and an “Unsatisfactory” rating in four areas. The Florida Army Guard received two “Noteworthy” evaluations -- one in Installation Maintenance and the other in Property Loss Management -- and 11 “Satisfactory” ratings.

Organizational Readiness Inspection (ORI) (FANG) The 125th Fighter Wing's Phase I ORI was rated OUTSTANDING, the first rating of Outstanding given by the Air Combat Command Inspector General under the current expanded criteria (first in 3 years).

Aviation Resource Management Survey (ARMS) (FLARNG). The ARMS is conducted by United States Army Forces Command and evaluates all phases of Army aviation operations. This survey inspected C Company, 1-111th Aviation Battalion, which is mobilizing as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While each ARMS is important, this survey was especially challenging due to this unit's recent conversion from attack to medical aviation. C Company was evaluated as “Noteworthy” in one area -- Tactical Operations -- and “Satisfactory” in 10, with an overall rating of 95.6%.

No Notice Alert Force Evaluation (FANG). The NORAD Inspector General conducted a No Notice Alert Force Evaluation of the Florida Air National Guard's Detachment at Homestead Air Force Reserve Base. The Detachment received an “Excellent,” the highest score to date under the stringent new criteria in this inspection cycle.

These inspection results were achieved by Soldiers and Airmen during a period of extremely high operational tempo and reflect the high standards of the Florida National Guard.

Florida Army National Guard End Strength. The Florida Army National Guard end strength is currently 9,839 or 98.4% of authorized strength. This represents an increase of over 400 Soldiers since July 2005. The Florida Army National Guard has implemented innovative programs to recruit and retain Soldiers and these programs are having a very positive effect on our end strength.

Florida National Guard Mobilization Status. The 651st and 652nd MP companies are currently in **Iraq** conducting security force and prison security and administration duties. In **Kuwait**, the 2153rd Finance Detachment is conducting personnel service support and the 3-116th FA is providing a Tailored Logistics Element (TLE) that is running Camp Virginia a base for reception, staging and onward integration (RSOI). The Air National Guard is also providing 18 airmen serving as individual unit augmentees in various locations in the Iraqi Theater of Operations.

The 53rd Infantry Brigade, Task Force Phoenix, continues it's mission to **Afghanistan** training the Afghan National Army (ANA). This effort includes over 1100 Florida National Guardsmen who

are scheduled to begin a phased redeployment around the June/July timeframe. Also serving in Afghanistan are 27 soldiers from the 3/20th Special Forces Battalion who are augmenting the 2/20th SF from Mississippi. The 930th Army Liaison Team (ALT) is serving in Kabul conducting a variety of liaison and staff functions. The Air National Guard currently has 2 airmen serving in Afghanistan as well.

164th ADA Brigade is providing 33 soldiers in support of Operation Noble Eagle in the National Command Region (NCR).

The 690th MP Company returned to Crystal River in February from a one year tour in Afghanistan. The company was welcomed by hundreds of well wishers from the community as well as state and local officials and family members. Welcome home 690th!

Total Soldiers Deployed to a Theater of Operations: 1778 (1758 Army/20Air)

Iraq/Kuwait: 426

Afghanistan: 1215

CONUS Deployed: 33

At MOB Stations pending deployment: 16

CBHCO and Medical hold soldiers CONUS Locations: 84

Total Number of FLARNG soldiers deployed since 9/11/01: 7170 (73%)

Total Number of FLANG soldiers deployed since 9/11/01: 929 (72%)

REDEPLOYMENTS:

53rd Separate Infantry Brigade, Fort Stewart (Jun-Jul 06)

UNITS ALERTED:

3/20th SF BN/350 (May-Jun)

1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB)/191 (Jun)

221st EOD/22 (Jun)

2-124th SECFOR/152 (Jul)

220th FI GP/21 (Sep)

This is the first such assessment conducted during a time of war, a war that is perhaps unprecedented in its complexity. It builds on several years of momentous change and on the lessons learned during the past four years of the global war on terror, peacekeeping operations, and yes, also several important humanitarian relief activities. These experiences highlighted the importance of building the capacity of partner states, other nations, friendly nations that are willing to help, and recognizing potential threats early and taking prompt measures to prevent problems from becoming conflicts or crises.

Donald H. Rumsfeld

Secretary of Defense

(Comments discussing the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

FY06 Defense Bill. The FY06 Defense Bill will provide funds for the following:

- Department of Defense active, Guard and Reserve military end strength.
- A 3.1 per cent across-the-board pay raise for military personnel.
- \$180 million more for equipment for the National Guard and Reserve
- \$1 billion to address immediate equipment shortfalls for the Guard and Reserve.
- Funding for pay and allowances for reserve component military personnel mobilized in support of the global war on terrorism.
- Increases in the maximum amounts for reserve component enlistments and affiliations with selected reserve units from \$10,000 to \$20,000.
- Full locality-based housing allowances for Guard and Reserve members mobilized for more than 30 days.
- Civilian income replacement for Reservists on extended or frequent mobilization beyond 180 days.
- TRICARE access to all Reservists and their families, not just those deployed.
- \$917 million for counter-drug program funding.

The 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR). The QDR is a comprehensive analysis of the Department of Defense completed every four years. This document provides both a review of current structure, operations, etc. and recommendations to strengthen the United States military. A brief summary of the QDR is outlined below:

The QDR report emphasizes that the United States must continue to adjust to an era of uncertainty and non-traditional, asymmetric challenges. While traditional threats remain, we also face the threats of 'irregular' challenges such as terrorism; 'catastrophic' challenges such as the pursuit and use of weapons of mass destruction or attacks such as Pearl Harbor or 9-11; and 'disruptive' challenges to counter our military advantages that would neutralize the military as a key instrument of national power. We are changing from our Cold War construct - shifting away from a garrisoned military focused on size, predictability and mass to become a global expeditionary force that has the speed, agility and lethality to respond to discrete tasks.

The Department of Defense recognizes that it cannot prevail in the long war alone. The Department must work with interagency partners to build national unity of effort to face today's complex security challenges. Likewise, the United States must help international partners build their own capacity for effective governance and develop mechanisms to share the risks and responsibilities of common 21st century challenges.

The fiscal year 2007 budget will be aligned with QDR priorities, but the budgets in fiscal year 2008 and beyond will more fully reflect programmatic changes in the QDR.

Joint Staff Guidance. General Peter Pace recently provided the Joint Staff with strategic direction to ensure unity of effort. A brief summary is outlined below:

Intent. The Joint Staff will be an agile, empowered, innovative, and results oriented organization, which supports the Chairman in the execution of his duties as the Principal Military Advisor to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council.

Priorities. My priorities are mutually supportive. Success in one will support success in others while delay in one will impede success in others. We must aggressively identify those factors impeding our success, develop plans to overcome them, and establish metrics with which to assess our progress.

A. Win the War on Terrorism. Our enemies are violent extremists who would deny us, and all mankind, the freedom to choose our own destiny. Finding this distributed, loosely networked enemy is the greatest challenge we face. We must find and defeat them in an environment where information, perception, and how and what we communicate are every bit as critical as the application of traditional kinetic effects.

B. Accelerate Transformation. Transformation is a continual process, not an end state. We must transform if we are to meet future challenges. Transformation is concepts and practices, technologies and capabilities, roles and missions, organizational structures, internal processes, doctrine and education, personnel policies, and much more. It applies to all--Active, Guard, and Reserve; officer and enlisted; and military and civilian.

C. Strengthen Joint Warfighting. One of our central tasks as a staff is to strengthen joint warfighting. The goal of warfighting must be to produce a force capable of swiftly and decisively defeating any enemy. It is a prerequisite to winning the War on Terrorism and will significantly accelerate and be accelerated by transformation.

D. Improve the Quality of Life of our Service Members and our Families. Bringing our people home alive and intact is Quality of Life Job #1. The best leadership, the most innovative tactics, the best equipment, and the best force protection are indispensable to this goal. We must show respect for the men and women who serve this country in the way we man, train, equip, mobilize, deploy, employ, sustain, redeploy, refurbish, and demobilize the force. This applies to the total force--Active, Guard and Reserve, military and civilian.

Enablers. The key enablers of Organizational Agility; Speed of Action and Decision; Collaboration; and Outreach are critical to accomplishing our priorities. Achieving them will require a commitment to innovative and efficient solutions.

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) Regulations Strengthen Law. The Labor Department has issued new rules spelling out the rights and responsibilities of returning Guard and reserve members – and of their employers. The rules were published Dec. 19 and become effective 30 days later, but they are designed to help enforce a law that has been on the books for 11 years. This is the first clarification of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, known as USERRA, since that law was enacted in 1994. The 268-page document includes a large section in question-and-answer format starting on Page 177. The regulations explain how USERRA protects against discrimination and retaliation because of military service and gives service members time to report back to jobs following completion of service obligations. The new regulation can be found at www.dol.gov/vets.

Our Army is extremely busy. Currently we have more than 270,000 Soldiers, Active, Guard and Reserve deployed, forward stationed overseas or securing the homeland. Soldiers from every state...Soldiers from every corner of this country... serving "We the People" ...the people of the United States... with incredible honor and distinction.

***Dr. Francis J. Harvey
Secretary of the United States Army***

UNITED STATES ARMY

The 2006 Army Posture Statement. The 2006 Army Posture Statement informs Congress on the status of the Army. A brief excerpt is outlined below and the entire statement is available at www4.army.mil/aps.

Soldiers are making enormous contributions and sacrifices while serving at the forefront of a long struggle of continuous, evolving conflict. Their presence has enabled historic elections in Afghanistan and Iraq, and is setting the conditions for democratic institutions to take hold. Our Soldiers are also preventing attacks on our Nation and responding to natural disasters at home and abroad, while sustaining the full range of America's global commitments. At the same time, to be ready for the challenges we face today and tomorrow, we are accelerating our plan to transform and modernize.

We are executing The Army Plan to accomplish our mission and to realize our vision: *to remain the preeminent landpower on Earth – the ultimate instrument of national resolve – that is both ready to meet and relevant to the challenges of the dangerous and complex 21st century security environment.* Our plan consists of four overarching, interrelated strategies.

- * Provide Relevant and Ready Landpower for the 21st Century Security Environment
- * Train and Equip Soldiers to Serve as Warriors and Grow Adaptive Leaders
- * Sustain an All-Volunteer Force Composed of Highly Competent Soldiers that are Provided an Equally High Quality of Life
- * Provide Infrastructure and Support to Enable the Force to Fulfill its Strategic Roles and Missions

ACUs, BDUs and DBDUs Authorized for Commercial Travel. In a recent message, the Army announced a change to AR 670-1, Feb. 3, 2005, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia. This policy allows commanders and leaders at all levels to make command decisions to allow Soldiers to wear utility uniforms during commercial travel, based on the mission and threat. The message states, "We are a nation at war, and the United States Army is the most trusted organization to the American public. To keep the dedicated efforts of our soldiers visible to the American public, the ACU, BDU and DBDU are authorized for wear during commercial travel, based on the mission and threat. "Personnel will not wear the ACU in off-post establishments that primarily sell alcohol. If the off-post establishment sells alcohol and food, Soldiers may not wear the ACU if their activities in the establishment center on drinking alcohol. The ACU is not normally considered appropriate for social or official functions off the installation, such as memorial services, funerals, weddings, inaugurations, patriotic ceremonies, etc. The ACU is a combat uniform and is not intended for wear as an all-purpose uniform when other uniforms (class A or B, dress, and mess uniform) are more appropriate."

Our priorities and our vision focus on leveraging the talents, the abilities, the selfless commitment and the enthusiasm of these Soldiers and Airmen. As Chief of the National Guard Bureau, my mission is to ensure that they receive the latest training, complete and modern equipment, and an organizational and command structure worthy of their mission and their service.”

*Lieutenant General H Steven Blum
Chief, National Guard Bureau
2005 National Guard Posture Statement*

NATIONAL GUARD

2005 National Guard Highlights. Iraq held safe elections for its Transitional Assembly on Jan. 30. On Aug. 22, the Assembly announced a draft of the Iraqi Constitution. On Oct. 15, the Iraqi people approved their Constitution. And on Dec 15, millions of Iraqis went to the polls yet again and democratically elected their government officials.

The Army National Guard and Coalition Forces are patrolling around the clock to rid the Iraqi landscape of the thousands of munitions and explosives buried by the enemy. From May through November, a total of 1,458 weapons caches were found in Iraq. In just the week between Nov. to Dec 2, Multi-National Force-Iraq forces reported 164 IEDs were cleared and 446 anti-Iraqi forces were detained.

The Afghan National Army (ANA) now numbers approximately 30,000 and is a nationally recognized institution with a nationwide presence. Prior to Sept. 11, 2001, Afghanistan had no national security institutions and no military traditions. The FLARNG's 53d Infantry Brigade is the United States lead for training the ANA. Safe elections for the new Afghan government's legislative body, the National Assembly, were held in September 2005.

Over 48,000 Guard Soldiers from all our states and territories deployed in support of American citizens affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Over 50 million pounds of ice, over seven million gallons of water, and over 10 million meals were distributed to the populace.

Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP). The Guard Recruiting Assistance Program (G-RAP) is a contracted program designed for individuals who voluntarily apply online at www.GuardRecruitingAssistant.com to be eligible to serve as a part-time Recruiting Assistant (RA). The RA applicant will be verified and hired by a contractor, not the ARNG. Each RA will cultivate quality potential Soldiers from within their individual spheres of influence. Once a potential Soldier is identified and pre-qualified, the RA will facilitate a meeting engagement with their local Recruiting and Retention NCO (RRNCO). The triad of RRNCO, RA, and potential Soldier will then work closely to process the potential Soldier and move them towards accession.

Upon enlistment, the RA will receive an initial payment of \$1,000 with a second \$1,000 payment upon successful shipment to Basic Training. Note: exact payment timelines vary depending upon prior service/non-prior status and availability of training seats.

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